

I will give all of the sayings and things first and then explain how it works after!!

	<u>Flats</u>	<u>Sharps</u>
C onductor	0 Flats	7 Sharps
F lattens	1 Flat	6 Sharps
B and	2 Flats	5 Sharps
E ating	3 Flats	4 Sharps
A liens	4 Flats	3 Sharps
D uring	5 Flats	2 Sharps
G ym	6 Flats	1 Sharp
C lass	7 Flats	0 Sharps

Order of Flats
BEADGCF

Order of Sharps
FCGDAEB

The first step is you need to figure out if the scale that is being asked has sharps or flats in it. If a flat scale is ever asked it will always have the word flat with it, the only exception is F. The easy way to remember that is F spells flat. Otherwise, every scale is a sharp scale.

Now if you notice the saying you count that in order on your hand. If you notice the flats go in order of the saying. The next word has one extra flat with it. Your C scale has no flats so when you start; you always start Conductor with no fingers up since there are no flats. Now if someone asks you how many flats are in Bb for example, what you do is say Conductor(with no fingers up) Flattens (1 finger up) Band(2 fingers up), now you were asked for Bb, you got to the B with two fingers up so that means Bb has 2 flats. Lets try one more. You get asked Cb. When you go through the saying starting with conductor on no fingers, by the time you get to Class you will have seven fingers up telling you that Cb has 7 flats. That is how you figure out the flats. Now to figure out the sharps.

The key number is 7. If you notice up above with the saying. When you add the numbers going across for each scale of flats and sharps it always equals 7. Db has 5 flats and D has 2 sharps which equals a total of 7. So by using the saying above if you can figure out the flats you then know the sharps. Say you are asked for how many sharps are in you're a scale. Well when you use the saying, when you get to Aliens you will have 4 fingers up which tells you that Ab has 4 flats. You don't want the flats because you want the sharps. Since you know Ab has 4 flats, take 4 away from 7 which gives you three which means A has 3 sharps.

We'll try one more. We'll do B Major. First of all B Major is a sharp scale because flat isn't in the name. Now we need to figure out how many sharps are in the scale. When you go through the saying with your fingers, stop on B (make sure you start conductor with no fingers), but when you stop at B you will have two fingers up. So now you know Bb has 2 flats so 7 minus 2 is 5, which means B Major has 5 sharps.

It sounds complicated at first but once the saying becomes natural it is very easy, at least for every kid I've seen it taught too. Most school I have gone in to or been at, their kids don't even know all of the Major scales by the time they graduate. At this school the kids know all of their Major scales and can play them ALL from memory by the time they leave 8th grade.

Anyways, now you know how many sharps or flats are in the scales, now you need to figure out what notes are flat and sharp. Your order of flats is listed above. The way to remember it is by the word BEAD, and GCF (Greatest Common Factor, a math term) or by the saying Gross Corn Flakes. So if you have two flats you take the first two letters, B and E and those are flat. If you have 5 flats it would be Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, and Gb.

Now for the sharps. You can either memorize the other saying backwards or another saying that works is Fish Can Gobble Down All Extra Bait. The same as above, if you have 3 Sharps, you take the first 3 sharps which would be FCG. If you have one sharp it would be just F.

Well I hope you find this of use for yourself or your students. I have found this is a much easier method to teach scales from memory by for my students and I'm hoping you find the same thing!!